

[Letter from Woody Guthrie to Alan Lomax, June 7, 1942]

Sept. 17 1940 N.Y. N.Y. N.Y. N.Y.

Brother Lomax

Tomorrow I got to rehearse. I spend my time hearsing and rehearsing. This is just a few lines to tell you that I am just writing a few lines to tell you that. I got a new fountain pen give to me. By two girls. I dont mean I got it by two girls but they both give it to me between them. Its a Parker duofold or sofa or some such name. Writes purty good. Some of it you can almost read. How's the skid row section of the poor folks division of the Library of Congress? Thats some joint. Ill come over some day and make you some more records. This is along late in the day and its a getting dark and I got my tongue hung over my eye tooth and caint hardly see what Im a writing. I got a call from the Du Pont program Calvacade of America and they said they had me in view for a ballad telling about the life of Wild Bill Hickock. I said I got you boys in mind for 300 dollars. Then I got a call from Sanka Coffee's program called We The People and I dont know what they want unless its the people. Our dress rehearsal for Model Tobacco Company went through all right and they are giving me money so fast I use it to sleep under. Handed me fifty bucks the other day just to see how far it would knock me. Cisco is here from California and is learning how to play my guitar. He aims to come out as the Cisco Kid with the slogan You aint seen California till you see Cisco Kid. His brother is here and he is a good boy somewhere else. He hates New York and he just stays here because it gives him a good reason to cuss without feeling sinful. Harold won a honorable mention with his statues. One judge at the contest thought Harold was some thing the statues carved. Honorable mentions aint used amongst politicians I dont think. But they're the best chiselers of the lot. Pete is down in Alabama trying to a girl and the poll tax down. He sold his bike and rode off down the road

Library of Congress

with a long neck banjo. How's your wife? Tell her I said hold the fone. Take it easy. Truly
yourn

Woody Guthrie